

# CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for an electronic system user to programming an electronic system,  
2 comprising:  
3 generating an electronic mail message in response to data entered by a user, the  
4 electronic mail message including user-selected preference data for the electronic system;  
5 transmitting the electronic mail message to an electronic mail destination;  
6 automatically extracting the user-selected preference data from the electronic mail  
7 message;  
8 transmitting the user-selected preference data to the electronic system; and  
9 configuring the electronic system with the user-selected preference data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the user-selected preference  
2 data to the electronic system in response to a request, initiated by the electronic system, to  
3 transmit preference data.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the user-selected preference data includes telephone  
2 directory information, and the electronic system is a mobile communication device.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the user-selected preference data includes  
2 programming instructions, and the electronic system is a television signal recorder.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the user-selected preference data in  
2 the electronic system as at least one telephone directory entry.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying operating parameters of the  
2 electronic system in response to the user-selected preference data.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the user-selected preference data to the  
2 electronic system is performed via a radio signal.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic system includes a programmable  
2 recorder, and the user-selected preference data includes recording instructions.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic system includes a programmable  
2 television recorder, and the user-selected preference data includes keywords associated with  
3 operating instructions.

1 10. A method for providing user-preference data to an electronic system , comprising:  
2 transmitting user-preference data associated with the electronic system from a first  
3 computing arrangement to a second computing arrangement in response to user entry of the  
4 user-preference data at the first computing arrangement;  
5 storing the user-preference data in a database hosted by the second computing  
6 arrangement in association with an identifier of the electronic system;  
7 retrieving from the database user preference data associated with the identifier of  
8 electronic system in response to a request for the user-preference data by the electronic  
9 system;  
10 transmitting the user-preference data retrieved from the database to the electronic  
11 system; and  
12 configuring the electronic system with the user-preference data.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the user-preference data is transmitted from the first  
2 computing arrangement to the second computing arrangement in an electronic mail message.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the user-preference data is transmitted from the first  
2 computing arrangement to the second computing arrangement via a hyper-text transport  
3 protocol.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising transmitting the user-preference data to  
2 the electronic system via a wireless interface.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the electronic system is a portable communication  
2 device.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the electronic system includes a television signal  
2 receiver.

1 16. The method of claim 10, wherein the electronic system includes a programmable  
2 recorder, and the user-preference data includes recording instructions.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the user-preference data is transmitted in an  
2 electronic mail message from the first computing arrangement to the second computing  
3 arrangement.

1 18. An electronic system, comprising:  
2 an electronic device configurable with user-preference data and coupled to a non-  
3 QWERTY user-input device for input of user-preference data;  
4 a first computing arrangement adapted to assemble and transmit user-preference data;  
5 a second computing arrangement coupled to the first computing arrangement and to  
6 the electronic device, the second computing arrangement adapted to receive and store user-  
7 preference data transmitted from the first computing device and transmit the user-preference  
8 data to the electronic device.

1 19. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a wireless  
2 communication device, and the first computing arrangement is further adapted to  
3 communicate the selected user-preference data to the second computing arrangement in an  
4 electronic mail message.

1 20. The electronic system of claim 19, wherein the selected user-preference data includes  
2 telephone directory entries.

1 21. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a programmable  
2 television signal recorder, and the first computing arrangement is further adapted to  
3 communicate the selected user-preference data to the second computing arrangement in an  
4 electronic mail message.

1 22. The electronic system of claim 21, wherein the selected user-preference data includes  
2 commands for operation of the programmable television signal recorder.

1 23. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a programmable  
2 television signal recorder, and the user-preference data is transmitted from the first  
3 computing arrangement to the second computing arrangement by hyper-text transport  
4 protocol.

1 24. The electronic system of claim 23, wherein the selected user-preference data includes  
2 commands for operation of the programmable television signal recorder.

1 25. An electronic system, comprising:  
2 means for generating an electronic mail message in response to data entered by a user,  
3 the electronic mail message including user-selected preference data for the electronic system;  
4 means for transmitting the electronic mail message to an electronic mail destination;  
5 means for automatically extracting the user-selected preference data from the  
6 electronic mail message;  
7 means for transmitting the user-selected preference data to the electronic system; and  
8 means for configuring the electronic system with the user-selected preference data.

1 26. An electronic system, comprising:  
2 means for transmitting user-preference data associated with the electronic system  
3 from a first computing arrangement to a second computing arrangement in response to user  
4 entry of the user-preference data at the first computing arrangement;  
5 means for storing the user-preference data in a database hosted by the second  
6 computing arrangement in association with an identifier of the electronic system;  
7 means for retrieving from the database user preference data associated with the  
8 identifier of electronic system in response to a request for the user-preference data by the  
9 electronic system;  
10 means for transmitting the user-preference data retrieved from the database to the  
11 electronic system; and  
12 means for configuring the electronic system with the user-preference data.